

## Cleaning Up the Slums

LAST A consistent, rational effort has been begun to rid Washington, D. C., of its slums. Some of the negro districts in the national capital are among the worst, most unhealthy, and most disgraceful slum districts in America. Numerous congressional investigations and studies by sociological and philanthropic organizations have been made, but they have usually come to naught. Now another effort is to be made—this time by the women's division of the National Civic Federation.

A fund is being raised, which will be turned over to a corporation headed by Gen. Sternburg, formerly surgeon general of the army, to be used in removing unsanitary dwellings and substituting clean and healthful dwellings that can be rented at nominal price and yet pay fair return on the investment. The buildings will be grouped with due regard to the needs of sanitation, breathing space, and play space for the children. Mrs. Woodrow Wilson and Gifford Pinchot are deeply interested in the project, toward which Mrs. Pinchot has subscribed several thousand dollars.

In Augusta, Ga., Mrs. J. D. Hammond has taken a leading part in seeking to improve housing conditions among the negroes. She has devised a plan even more consistent and thorough than that of the Washington group. Mrs. Hammond wishes to buy a whole city block at a time (about six acres in Augusta), and improve the block as a whole. She would reserve two of the six acres in each block for a playground and a settlement house; on the other four acres she would build little three room houses, with decent sanitary conveniences, necessary plumbing, running water, plenty of windows, closets, a porch, and fly screens everywhere. Such houses, built double and four acres at a time, would cost but a few hundred dollars each. The rent could be far less than the usual rent now paid for far worse quarters, and yet return a fair interest on the investment.

Each lot would be large enough to afford a little garden space, besides the common playground. The "settlement house" in each six acre block would have rooms for the little children to play in and have their kindergarten, and it would have space for boys' and girls' clubs, and mothers' clubs. There would be a few classes in cooking and sewing and laundry work, and a few free baths. A small laundry and drying room would be provided, for the use of which a small fee would be paid; but this would enable the dwellers in the block to do their laundry work under the best conditions, and relieve the little homes of the ugly accumulations of rubbish, the "bills" pot, the steaming clothes, the burdened lines and cluttered up rooms, inseparable from the family washing in a little house.

About 80 three room houses would be built on the four acres. The rental would easily pay a fair return on the total cost of land and buildings, after meeting all charges.

Mrs. Hammond makes one statement in her prospectus that applies exactly to slum conditions in El Paso, that is, in Chihuahuita. Says she: "Most negroes in Augusta belong to that economic class, which the world over, pays the heaviest rent in proportion to its income, and yields the landlord the largest return on his investment, yet which receives in return little which is compatible with health or decency. It is a world problem—this question of the exploitation of the poorest and most thriftless class of renters for the landlord's greatest profit. The conditions we provide for these people under such a system inevitably breed physical and moral degeneracy."

This is a very clear and suggestive statement of our Chihuahuita problem.

## Trying To Enforce Prohibition

IN FIVE counties of Maine, according to the governor, the prohibition law is not enforced, while in 11 of the 16 counties "the law is fairly well enforced."

The governor instituted impeachment proceedings against several county sheriffs, charging gross neglect of duty. The governor in his message asking the legislature to begin impeachment proceedings says that conditions in Portland are especially bad. He submits a "statement showing the number of places and designating the streets where liquor is sold in open violation of the law, also a chart showing the number of places in the vicinity of two public schools where this nefarious traffic is carried on openly, the existence of which should be known to any sheriff and deputies in the exercise of ordinary intelligence and diligence in the prosecution of their official duties."

Statewide prohibition might be enforced if the matter were taken wholly out of the hands of local officials and all power concentrated in state officers, corresponding to the Texas rangers or the Pennsylvania constabulary, only adequate in numbers to police all the counties and see that the state laws were observed. When the enforcement of these prohibitory laws is left to local officers, local sentiment will guide them chiefly, and in effect, a sort of local option always exists under which obnoxious laws are virtually repealed by general failure to enforce them. Unless a law have the substantial approval of the majority of the people, it is virtually dead most of the time, for elected officers will not arrest or prosecute under it and juries will not convict under it.

If the existing rigid regulatory laws in Texas are not strictly enforced, what reason to expect that absolute prohibition would be enforced in the cities, against the will of the majority? Rigid regulation, and strict enforcement of the laws we have, ought to precede any attempt to enact statewide prohibitory laws that would be so generally defied as to create a new contempt for law.

## Needless Fears Dynamited

IN FRANCE since the year 800 a certain town has been threatened by an overhanging mountain mass, which threatened to "fall any minute." The founders of the town probably did not expect to stay there long, so they took chances on the rock. But for 1100 years, the people of the little settlement have lived through their entire lives in mortal fear that the mountain would fall and crush them. Nobody had the enterprise to move the town a few hundred feet out of the danger zone, but they just went on talking about the ever present danger and suffering the tortures of apprehension.

Thus more than 11 centuries went by, in a land where airplanes are common and moving pictures flourish. A week ago, French army engineers put 1000 pounds of dynamite under the loose snag of the mountain, and blew up 85,000 cubic yards. The villagers had previously been induced to remove all their pet animals and dainty house furnishings to a little distance to be clear of the shock and dust from the blast. The mountain did not fall on the town, showing for one thing that the 1100 years of constant fear had been needless. Flying rocks perforated a lot of roofs, but grass and twigs will fix the roofs and cover the scars.

Now the villagers will find that they have sacrificed an important scenic attraction of their quiet valley, and fewer automobiles will pass that way. After covering in the shadow of the "falling" mountain for 1100 years, it is probable that the town will take a notion to move now that the menace no longer remains.

## One-Sentence Philosophy

### GLOBE SIGHTS.

(Jackson Globe.)

So many men threaten to bet. The man who calls his laziness hard luck won't fool very many.

When you "don't come" don't expect a superior workman.

Fat women wouldn't look so fat if they would quit trying to look so slender.

No matter what your Red Rag is, some one is always hanging around to wave it.

A man will do a lot of unreasonable things in his efforts to become vindicated.

Considering that the critics always come in on comp, their work is pretty rough.

Passing the resolutions isn't a very hard task, there are so many capable of doing fine writing.

A deaf person has his troubles, but the college yells don't bother him, which should help some.

Long hair doesn't make a poet or a musician, even if some of the bards and virtuoso do dodge the barber.

When a man is liked best by those who know him best, he has a pretty fair recommendation as such things go.

While a leader may get tired of loafing, he prefers that sort of weariness to the kind coming from "push."

At some time in his life, nearly every man yields to the temptation of having his picture taken in a uniform of some kind or other.

### QUAKER MEDITATIONS.

(Philadelphia Record.)

Never tell a fat girl she is all wool and a yard wide.

The fisherman's motto—All things come to those who wait.

There is nothing platonic about the love of misery for company.

A guilty man escapes because he is so small he goes right through the net.

There is no limit to woman's sphere. "No," woman's sphere now seems to be the whole earth.

One should remember that time is money," admonished the stern parent. But time hangs so much more heavily on our hands, yawned the indolent son.

It is certainly queer.

How a woman that's deep can call a man dear.

And then make him feel cheap.

POINTED PARAGRAPHS.

(Chicago News.)

Of two evils choose something else.

Many things are well done that are not worth doing.

You can blind some men by throwing gold dust in their eyes.

A cynic may be one who has discovered the bitterness in stolen sweets.

The man who remembers that he has to be as dishonest as he can be, is no doubt you may be able to fool a lot of people, but there is always some wise guy.

## Millions Dodge Tax Levies

Even Whole Counties Jointly Tactically in Movement to Beat State

By Frederick J. Haskin

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 27.—

The man who can frame a tax law that will not be evaded

by many people has not been born.

This applies not only to income taxes, but to property taxes as well. One

of the principal objections urged against the income tax is that it would

make us a nation of liars and put a premium upon perjury. One does not

have to go very far to find that if we regard undervaluation as lying and

failure to list property as perjury, we are already such nations and such a

premium already has been placed upon perjury.

That an unimaginable extent tax dodging has been carried on is shown

by the records of the census office. In 1901 the unexamined property in the

United States was valued at \$1,000,000,000. This valuation

being given in by the people to the census enumerators. But when the

assessors of taxes tried to value the

property a little later, these same people placed a valuation of less than

\$200,000,000, and in such a manner

that the census office was forced to

cancel the balance of the valuation.

Evade Personal Property Tax.

The worst evasion, of course, comes with personal property because such a

large percentage of that is intangible. In some countries the penalty

is made an amount double the tax

evaded, in others triple, and in at least one country the person evading

any tax is liable for half of the income upon which he dodged the tax.

Some countries aim to encourage men

of the same amount. But the new member

of any party of conscience attack them as a result. This is accomplished by

the tax and voluntarily comes forward at any time thereafter and confesses his

fault and pays the tax he dodged. No penalty shall be imposed and he shall

be absolved from censure.

No Aid for Assessors.

Some men prefer to suffer the penalties imposed for failure to make re-

turns rather than to aid the tax assessor at all. They simply allow the

assessor to make his own assessments and abide by the result. In one in-

stance in England, for illustration, a certain country gentleman never made

a return. The assessor fixed his in-

come at \$50,000 a year, and on this basis he paid taxes for several years.

Finally there came a new man upon the scene. He was a country gentle-

man the old members of the board were going to write him down as

being a member of the board. But the new member

had better information about him. "Write him down for 50,000 pounds a

year," he said. "He is a member of the board from him," quoth he, and they

did so. The erstwhile 500 pound country gentleman was glad to get off

even at that.

Some Will Evade Tax.

That there will be tax dodging under an income tax law in the United

States is inevitable. A hundred ways will be devised and carried out

by the law. It will be found to evade the tax, in whole or in part. But the

longer the law is in force, the more such as the tariff and taxes on pro-

duction, such as the internal revenue tax. It is also true of land and

personal property taxes. Also a hundred and one other methods of dodging income

taxes will be devised and carried out, but the moon-shiner, the smuggler,

and the tax dodger do the same on other forms of taxation. The

evader of the law made the criterion by which a tax should be judged

as to its righteousness of principle, then the world would have to live without

taxes.

Tomorrow—Public school commences.

THE RACE GAMBLER.

It is the old, old story over again, repeated so often one would think even

the most thoughtless would take warn-

ing and fortify himself against the temptation. Charles A. Baker, formerly

assistant cashier of the Crocker Na-

tional bank, San Francisco, was re-

cently sentenced to prison for embeal-

ing \$200,000. Hear his own testimony:

"I fell because of the temptation I

was constantly subjected to. The bank

paid me \$10,000 a year for my services.

From my desk I had a view of the

casino, and I saw the roulette wheel

called at the bank and daily they

lensed over my desk and told me of the thousands they had won the day

before, with scarcely an effort. These conversations gradually became more

and more impressive. I began to think I should be taking advantage of the

opportunities put before me. One day a

man came to me and gave me a tip on the stock market. I took it.

Got a second tip a few days later. I

took that tip and lost. After that I

lost again. I began to feel that I was

trying to recoup my losses and make

good with the bank. I intended to stop

gambling as soon as I could get even

on the stock market.

## ABE MARTIN

By GEORGE FITCH

Author of "At Good Old Slush."

PHOTOGRAPH is a picture of a

man as he looks when a photogra-

pher has balanced him on a stiff

backed chair and has aimed a camera at him.

Photographs are a means of preserv-

ing woman's good looks and man's em-

barrassment for future generations. A

woman will look a camera in the eye all

day without flinching if she is sure her

hair is on straight, but when the ordi-

nary man is ordered to have his picture

taken he makes an engagement with the

dentist in order to escape.

This is because man thinks he is

modest. But it really is because he has

no faith in the ability of the photogra-

pher to make him as handsome as he

would like to be. On the other hand,

woman's faith in the photographer is

only equalled by her faith in the re-

toucher.

Photographs are made by exposing a

glass plate, which is more sensitive to

light than a trust agreement. After this

plate has been developed it goes to the

hands of a sad-eyed young woman, who

puts it in a retouching frame and works

over the customer's features and com-

plexion. She is sad eyed because she

knows that no matter how shamelessly

by omission is penalized more severely

than failure to make any return

whenever in some countries the pen-

alty is made an amount double the tax

evaded, in others triple, and in at least one country the person evading

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